

News and Gossip of Screen and Stage

FILM CONCERNS BALK AT PRICE CHAPLIN SETS

All Are Economizing Now and None Will Pay Him \$1,000 a Day.

That part of the amusement world which word painters who devote their talents to the theaters described as "filmdom" was shaken to its depths this week by the report that Charlie Chaplin was in New York preparing to join the forces of the Triangle corporation to take part in its pictures known as the Keystone comedies. Chaplin was said to have ended his contract with the Essanay, which has had his services for the last two years. The officers of the Triangle company in New York denied the truth of the rumor and it was said by representatives of the Famous Players, as well as the Vitagraph company that the comedian was not going to sell his funny walk to them.

His Own Film.
It was said by one of the leading moving picture operators that Charlie was about to organize a company to make his own pictures. In this organization he will be associated with his brother, Syd Chaplin, who has recently been working with the Keystone, which was the first company to employ the services of Charlie. It was said that his price had now grown so high that none of the companies was willing to pay it and for that reason it had become necessary for him to organize own company if he was to receive anything like his present demands in the way of salary. After having received \$4,000 a week from the Essanay, it is said that he demands \$7,000 for another contract, which none of the companies, even those now in need of a popular comedian, will pay.

An Over Supply.
The companies are economizing, this operator told a reporter, "and it is their policy to avoid waste and expenditure nowadays, largely because the supply of pictures already exceeds the demand. Large salaries are no longer paid for long engagements, but only for the duration of a picture. Only the actors employed regularly in the companies are under long contracts. The ease with which it is now possible to get well known actors is, of course, an advantage to the producers of the pictures, who find that it no longer costs them as much as it did to get all the well known names they want for the films. There is one thing quite certain. There is going to be no increase in the salary of any of the moving picture stars nowadays, however popular they may be."

NOW IN BIG FOUR

Fritzi Brunette Makes Her Debut in V. L. S. E. Film Very Soon.

Miss Fritzi Brunette, the Selig star actress, makes her debut in V. L. S. E. productions in the Selig Red Seal play, "Unto Those Who Sin," released March 6. Miss Brunette is among the most popular of screen favorites. She has appeared in many of the Selig one, two and three reel photoplays. Her enactment of the role of "Sadie," a working girl, who becomes enamored with gold, and ultimately becomes a scheming woman, is a character study in heredity and environment. That the wages of sin is death is clearly proved in this story. Miss Brunette wears eighteen costly and beautiful gowns during the course of the Selig drama, "Unto Those Who Sin," which was written by James Oliver Curwood.

James Montgomery has finished a comedy called "Irene O'Dare."

NOTED STARS COMING TO BIJOU THIS WEEK

Splendid List of Dramas and Comedies Has Been Booked There.

The Bijou theater has a list of satisfying dramas and comedies booked for the coming week.

Some of the highest salaried actors and actresses on the American stage will be featured. They include Thomas Jefferson, Robert Harron, Norma and Constance Talmadge in the Triangle production of "The Missing Links"; Sam Bernard, Glen Cavender and Mae

Mack Swain, who will be seen Wednesday and Thursday in the Keystone comedy, "A Modern Enoch Arden."

Malcolm Duncan and Anna Nilsson will be in the leads Friday in a Kleins-Edison feature, "The Scarlet Road."

A Hearst-Vitagraph Pictorial News is shown every Friday. Saturday's picture will be "Thou Shalt Not Covet," a five-act V. L. S. E. feature, in which Kathlyn Williams and Tyrone Power are cast in the leading parts. The story is built on the commandment, "Thou shalt not covet



NORMA TALMADGE AND ROBERT HARRON, STARS OF "THE MISSING LINKS," THE NEW TRIANGLE ARTS PLAY OF LIFE IN A SMALL COUNTRY TOWN.

Bush in the Keystone comedy, "Because He Loved Her," both to be shown Monday and Tuesday; Henry Woodruff and Rhea Mitchell in an Ince production of "The Beckoning Flame," and Joe Jackson, Viva Edwards and

thy neighbor's wife," and a picture of rare merit has been built around it. The comedy shown each Saturday is made especially for laughing purposes. Billy Watson, the celebrated New York comedian, is featured.

To Be Seen in War Romance



BESSIE BARRISCALE
Bessie Barriscale, the beautiful star whose screen triumphs have brought her to the front rank of film artists within the last year, soon will be presented by Thomas H. Ince for the fourth time on the Triangle program in an absorbing war romance from the pen of J. G. Hawks entitled "Bullets and Brown Eyes." The production is totally different from anything in which Miss Barriscale heretofore has appeared and is said to offer the star in one of her most bewitching characterizations.

IDEA BOX

To Be Improved Upon for Moving Pictures by Colin Campbell.

Colin Campbell, dean of Selig producers and always devising an unique method of improving upon what the other fellow starts, was reading the current issue of Popular Mechanics, where he saw described an idea box. This box operates six rolls placed in series. Upon each roll is printed a long series of words, one roll for nouns, another for verbs, another for adjectives, etc. There is one slot for each roll and turns of the different cranks will phrase sentences that often give rise to ideas, plots, etc., for stories and scenarios. There are about 1,200 different words listed so the possibilities are extensive.

Mr. Campbell expresses himself as strongly in favor of the idea box. But now comes the improvement: He intends to rig one of these devices on his novice camera and have it operated by the same crank that "takes his pictures." In this way Mr. Campbell says he can write his next scenario while photographing his present one.

Makes Film of Kipling Novel



EDWARD JOSE
Edward Jose, the Pathé producer, has now finished "The Light That Failed," the Gold Rooster play adapted from Kipling's famous novel. He says that in his opinion it is the best picture he ever made. An extraordinarily large company was employed, and many big effects obtained.

MISS MEREDITH IS ENGAGED FOR BALBOA FILMS

She Goes to Long Beach and Begins Work in a Five Reeler.

Lois Meredith, the girlish wonder of the stage, is Balboa's newest star. She reached the Long Beach studio recently, accompanied by an entourage of five, and immediately plunged into a five reel production under the direction of Harry Harvey. By reason of her manner, she caught on immediately and was received as a "regular fellow."

How H. M. Horkheimer, president and general manager of the Balboa company, happened to engage Miss Meredith is a bit out of the ordinary. He saw her in a screen production in which the part she played did not show her to an advantage. But she made such an impression, in spite of the handicap, that he arranged for an interview.

Possibilities Recognized.
Her winsome personality and bright manner impressed the producer as having wonderful possibilities, particularly in view of the notable stage career back of the girl. Lois Meredith is one of the youngest stars before the public—in fact so young, that her mother must sign her contracts to make them legal.

When she decided to go on the stage Miss Meredith obtained a hearing from H. W. Savage and was immediately cast for the part of "Modesty" in the original production of "Everywoman." Next, she followed Laurette Taylor in "Peg o' My Heart" and, after that she was selected for the New York opening of "Help Wanted" to do the feminine lead. In theatrical vernacular, she "got over big" in all three of these parts. For a girl not yet of age, this is certainly a worthy record.

Specially Written Plays.
During the last half year, Miss Meredith has filled a number of screen engagements. But in no case has she been provided with vehicles suited to her talents. Balboa will furnish them for President Horkheimer has a number of specially written feature plays built to her requirements. Lois Meredith is young, pretty, vivacious and an actress naturally endowed second to none of the popular screen favorites of the day and is about to come into her own.

CHANGES HIS NAME

Because There Are Three Other Henry Bergmans in the Business.

Henry Bergman, the eminent character actor and heavy lead, who appears in Metro productions, and was last seen with Emily Stevens in "The House of Tears," has arranged to change his first name. In the future he will have it spelled "Henri."

Mr. Bergman was prompted to make the change because of confusion following the fact that there are three Henry Bergmans appearing professionally. One is in vaudeville, and another is in motion pictures.

BIG PRODUCTION

Is to Be Filmed in Florida by Notable Metro Company.

Another Metro company, headed by Fred J. Balshofer, director in general, has gone to Jacksonville, Fla., where exteriors will be made for a big production, as yet unnamed. There were fifteen persons in all in the party, including Marguerite Snow, the charming and popular Metro star; Zella Call, formerly leading woman with Al Goldson, in "Dancing Around"; John Goldsborough, leading man in several Metro productions, and Howard Truesdell, who will assist Mr. Balshofer in the direction of the new photoplay, and also play a leading role.

HEROIC PART

Is Taken by Mary Pickford in Her Latest Feature.

Though Mary Pickford has won her greatest successes in pathetic and comic roles, her wonderfully versatile interpretation of Peppina in the Famous Players spectacular and thrilling story, "Four Little Peppina," proves her to be equal to the most exacting of heroic parts. This latest Paramount picture takes the little heroine from Italy to Sicily and then to New York. It will be released in March, and is the biggest production in which she has ever starred.

AVIATOR

Is Taking the Pictures of the New Petrova Feature.

George W. Peters, who is as well known as a professional aviator as he is an expert camera man, is now at work under Director Francis J. Grandon, doing the camera work of the new Petrova feature, "The Soul Market," which will be released in the Metro program.

Until recently Mr. Peters was employed by the Keystone company, making their principal comedy films. Before that he worked for the Biograph, Famous Players and Selig companies.

MISS BRADY WILL BE SEEN AS BALLET GIRL

In Beautiful Photoplay That Will Begin Notable Week at the Orpheum.

The Orpheum theater will present some of Broadway's most brilliant stars on its screen the coming week, and all will appear in supreme photodramatic triumphs.

"The Ballet Girl" will be Monday's feature. This drama appeals to every one because of its beautiful theme, that of purity in all things, and this

with exquisite picturization.

Plays Two Days.

The sensation of the week comes Friday and Saturday when the darling of the silent drama, Miss Muriel Ostriche, will be seen in the leading role of the brilliant photoplay, "The Circus Girl's Romance." Part of the thrilling scenes are laid in the circus grounds and the remainder of them taken in society affairs, including a gorgeous ballroom, where the plots are laid to kidnap the little stage



A SCENE FROM "INSPIRATION" FIVE ACT MUTUAL MASTERPIECE MADE BY THAMHOUSER

part stands out as distinct as a flash of lightning on a pitch dark night. The brilliant artist, Alice Brady, with Halbrook Blinn playing opposite her, will be seen in the stellar role. The story is a sweet and touching romance and beautifully pictures the triumph of a young woman's pure heart over dark plots and evil plans.

Stars Miss Munson.

Tuesday, the beautiful model, Audrey Munson, will be seen in the leading role of "Inspiration," a Mutual masterpiece which has set filmdom agog. This extremely sensational drama tells of the adventures of a country girl adrift in a great city who overcomes every obstacle and becomes the most famous model in the world. The settings are gorgeous and the costumes are the most elaborate that can be imagined.

The Red Feather Features will offer in Wednesday's program the dainty and well known star of the screen, Violet Mersereau, accompanied by a stellar cast in its first and superb release, "The Path of Happiness." This story is filled with the charm of love and is sweet with beautiful personalities. The scenes are laid in the mountains and the whole play is the height of enjoyment.

Another chapter of the great serial drama, "Graft," will also be shown Wednesday.

From Famous Novel.

Steel Mackaye's famous novel, "Hazel Kirke," will be the special offering for Thursday and this promises to be a drama of the highest order. The stage beauty, Pearl White, is starred with Bruce McRae and William Riley Hatch and they are aided by an exceptionally clever and experienced cast. The story tells of the love of a miller's beautiful daughter who marries against her will to save her aged father, whom she loves dearly. It terminates in a terrible climax and the one who plots her downfall is caught and severely punished, and she is happily married to her heart's first love. The mill in the mountains is a wonderful scene in this picture, but the whole play is characterized

beauty. The whole story is modern, true to life and contains some impressive revelation. It fairly teems with high tensioned interest and the heart throbs of thwarted love. The play is from the pen of the famous writer, Ezra Butterworth, and with the valuable assistance of an all star Broadway cast it is sure to meet with the highest approval.

The music plots this week will be highly entertaining and all numbers rendered will be cued exactly to suit the picture. This part of the excellent program is something entirely new and lovers of music will appreciate the telling effect of the music on the picture.

JOINS LASKY

James Young is to Make Paramount Pictures Exclusively Hereafter.

James Young, one of the best known photoplay directors in the motion picture industry, has joined the directorial staff of the Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company in Hollywood, and will hereafter make Paramount pictures exclusively.

In recent years Mr. Young has given to the motion picture lovers a series of brilliant productions, and the unusual success that has come to him had been attributed in no small degree to Mr. Young's extraordinary powers and ability as a director.

By reason of Mr. Young's experience both as a writer and director it is said without fear of contradiction that he will be a valuable addition to the staff of Lasky directors which includes Cecil B. DeMille, director general; William C. DeMille, Frank Reicher, George Melford, Paul Dick-ey and others.

Florence Reed has received an offer to head a repertory company in San Francisco to produce high grade plays.

MUSTY SERIES OF COMEDIES MAKING A HIT

Single Reelers Featuring Harry Watson, Jr., Contest for Chaplin Laurels.

"The Mishaps of Musty Suffer," a series of ten one reel comedies, featuring Harry Watson, Jr., of Bickel and Watson, which George Kleine is offering a list of better class theaters for exclusive advance of release date showings, has more than lived up to the expectations of the manufacturer. Already a considerable number of the most representative houses in America are playing the series, the list including the Strand and Biltmore, New York; the Scollay Square and Gordon Olympia of Boston; Kunsky's circuit of beautiful Detroit houses; Alfred Hamburger's Chicago circuit; the Strand at Hartford, Conn.; the Tabernacle at Denver, and many others.

Novel and Unusual.

Critics everywhere hail the series as most novel and unusual comedies, an opinion apparently well attested by the sudden increase in bookings and the numerous letters received at the Kleine offices lately from pleased exhibitors.

Harry Watson has developed a brand new style of fun making, according to the critics, which seriously challenges the Chaplin laurels. The films themselves are noteworthy examples of a very evident determination on the part of George Kleine to inaugurate a new idea into the manufacture of one reel comedies, producing them on an elaborate scale and revolutionizing in many ways all former notions of the humble one reeler. The result has been the completion of material in one reel form offered by the best picture theaters in the country as a feature attraction. They have been in course of making since the second week of last June, which fact should furnish sufficient evidence of their extraordinary character if proof were needed.

An Experiment.

"We are offering these subjects for preliminary showing to a few of the big houses," said George Kleine. "They represent a great deal of work on the part of the entire staff, not to mention a costly outlay of money. In a way, they are experimental, and will demonstrate just how far the single reel subject can go. I am much gratified at the splendid showing in such theaters as the Strand, Scollay Square and Tabernacle, where audiences are apt to be coldly skeptical and ultra-critical in matters of comedies bordering on the slapstick. Also I am glad to say that these Watson pictures are the only comedies of their kind that ever played so high a class of houses. That's pretty good evidence that we were right in believing the public likes slapstick when they can get it without vulgarity."

STAGE NAME

Is Adopted by Pretty Ingenue Appearing in Metro Films.

From now on Betty Riggs, the pretty 17 year old ingenue appearing in Metro feature productions, will put aside that perfectly good homespun name, for the more euphonious one of Evelyn Brent. It was so ordained by the young lady herself, when, after a brief but successful career in motion pictures, she came into her own with the prominent role of "Snowbird," an Indian girl, in support of Edmund Breese in "The Lure of Heart's Desire."

Orpheum Theater

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MONDAY, February 14th.

Wm. A. BRADY presents the world's most famous beauty ALICE BRADY

—In—

"THE BALLET GIRL"

A Beautiful Drama of New York Life.

TUESDAY, February 15th.

The Sublime Art Model AUDREY MUNSON

—In—

"INSPIRATION"

This play is a surprise for all. Nothing like it in all the world. Played in New York at \$2.00.

WEDNESDAY, February 16th.

Something Entirely New—The Red Feather Features Offer VIOLET MERSEREAU

—In—

"THE PATH OF HAPPINESS"

A tale sweet with the scent of "New Mown Hay." A drama of love laid in the foot hills. AND EPISODE NO. 6 OF "GRAFT"

THURSDAY, February 17th.

The Gold Rooster Features Present the Screen's Daintiest Star PEARL WHITE

—In—

"HAZEL KIRKE"

A Stirring Love Drama by "The Whartons"—A Thrill—A Heart-Throb.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, February 18 and 19.

The Sensation of the Week—Broadway's Prettiest and Most Brilliant Idol MURIEL OSTRICHE

—In—

"THE CIRCUS GIRL'S ROMANCE"

As thrilling as its title, and interpreted by the greatest cast ever assembled for any photoplay. A drama no one can afford to miss. A day of gladness. A night of thrills.

SPECIAL MUSIC ALL WEEK...

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FOLLOW THE TRODDEN PATH TO THE ORPHEUM.

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"THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR"

(A Tabloid Musical Comedy Worth Seeing.)

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"OH YOU KID" Tabloid Version of "Baby Mine."	PELL TRIO Those Big Time Harmony Singers.	BUNCOS WELLS One of Weber and Fields' Famous Comedies.

THIS WEEK—THE 20th CENTURY IDEA.